PUDUKKOTTAI STATE

NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

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LECTURE CLV.

PUDUKKOTTAI NATIONAL WAR FRONT IN ACTION.

THE PONNAMARAVATHI MONSTER MEETING.

THE RESIDENT'S ROUSING ADDRESS.

Ponnamaravathi was *en féte* on Friday, July 9th, to meet Mr. H. J. TODD, Resident, Madras States, when, during an all too brief tour, he visited this important Nagarattar village to address a crowded and enthusiastic meeting organised by the National War Front. In welcoming him, Mr. V. Rm. Lakshmanan Chettiyar, Chairman of the Reception Committee, referred to the value of the British connection, the loyalty of the State and incidently, to the timely steps taken by the Administrator, that 'Friend of the ryot' to ease the food situation.

The meeting was noteworthy for more reasons than one, for the large attendance of women, the presence of an able lady-speaker, the announcement of a subscription of over a lakh of rupees for the Defence Loan by the Nagarattars and last but not least, for the rousing speech of the Resident.

"If this is a fair indication of what is going on all over the State" observed the Resident, "then the Darbar and the voluntary helpers are all to be warmly congratulated." The War Loan, he continued, is a safe investment, even if India is invaded, and an effective check on inflation. In England, Italian prisoners of war, who were permitted, under a League Convention, to work on land and earn their wages, preferred to invest their savings in British War Bonds, though they knew that the money would go to the making of bombs to be dropped on their own country. Their view was that their country was foredoomed and the only way of keeping their money safe for the rainy day was to invest it in British bonds. While this was the outlook of the enemy himself, it was superfluous to point out the value of War Loans to the Pudukkottai Public.

The present war was a total war, without distinction between King and peasant, or for the matter of that, between one set of politicians and another. During the Battle of Britain, he was an A. R. P. Warden in London. One morning, after a blitz, when he was attending to his duties, clearing the débris and rescuing people in the bombed area, the King and Queen appeared on the scene and went about consoling and comforting the sufferers.

All sorts of men live in London. There was, for instance, at the time, a Congress-man from South Malabar, who was also an A. R. P. Warden. He was attending to an unexploded bomb. When asked why he had come to London to save the lives of Englishmen, his reply was, 'First things first. When war is over there is time enough to urge the claims of independence for India.'

To take another instance, there was the case of Jesudasan, a mere lad of 18 or 19 from Trichinopoly, who was employed in the steamer in which he sailed back to India. The vessel was torpedoed and was sinking. Passengers and crew were being transferred to rescue boats, but Jesudasan would not abandon his post of duty until the last passenger and the last officer had left. There were 45 women and 75 children to save. During the evacuation of the ship, there was no panic, no noise; everyone did his duty. Finally, when one of the rescue boats got stuck, it was Jesudasan who freed it, at the risk of his life. Here is an example of brother-hood, between men of differrnt nationalities, in the presence of a common danger. Here was no caste or creed. It was a case of one for all and all for one, the sole object being to help one another and everyone out of the common danger. It was now more than a year ago that all this happened. Jesudasan, he was happy to add, was now a Lieutenant in the Royal Indian Navy, in charge of a mine-sweeper, somewhere in Persian waters.

Hitler, Mussolini and Tojo, the Resident added, were a menace to democracy, civili-sation and the world. This was the opinion not only of the Allies but even of many Germans. He knew a German, for instance, a Geologist, who had written a book on Indian minerals—one who had fought for Germany in the last war, but now, hating Hitler like poison, preferred a life of exile in England. Hitler's ambition, said this Geologist-soldier, is world domination, the only obstacle, as he thinks, being a universal faith in God. In Hitler's Germany children are therefore given a Godless education. Once when Hitler visited a school of happy children, he asked 'Who made you happy ?' and was disconcerted when straight the reply came that they owed their happiness to God. 'No' screamed Hitler, 'If it is God, will he give you comfits now.' 'No' was the confused answer. 'What God cannot give, I can,' shouted Hitler, producing a packet of sweets from his pocket. This is the New Axis education.

This German Geologist was ordered by Hitler to divorce his wife because she was a Jewess. As he refused he was put in a concentration camp, where he had the misfortune to witness the flogging to exhaustion of an old man by a youth of 17. No wonder the Geologist is now more eager than any other to see the overthrow of Hitler's régime.

So, the duty of everyone, high or low, whatever his race, is to do his or her best for the successful termination of the War. Indian politics can wait. Men do not dispute and quarrel when their village is burning but lend a hand to quench the fire.

THE BATTLE FOR EUROPE.

ROOSEVELT'S MESSAGE TO THE POPE.

(*Washington, July 10*).

By the time this message reaches Your Holiness, a landing in force by U. S. and British troops will have taken place on Italian soil.

Our soldiers have come to rid Italy of Fascism and all its unhappy symbols, and to drive out the Nazi oppressors who are infesting her soil.

There is no need for me to reaffirm that respect for religious beliefs, and for the free exercise of religious worship, is fundamental to our ideals. Churches and religious institutions will, to the extent that it is within our power, be spared the devastations of war during the struggle ahead.

Throughout the period of operations, the neutral status of the Vatican City, as well as of the Papal domains throughout Italy, will be respected. I look forward, as does Your Holiness, to that bright day when the peace of God returns to the world.

We are convinced that this will occur only when the forces of evil, which now hold vast areas of Europe and Asia enslaved, have been utterly destroyed. On that day, we shall joyfully turn our energies from the grim duties of war to the fruitful tasks of reconstruction, in common with all other nations and forces imbued with the spirit of goodwill towards men, and with the help of Almighty God, we will turn our hearts and our minds to the exacting task of building a just and enduring peace on earth.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

10—7—43 to 17—7—43.

Sicily.—Early on Saturday the 10th, Allied forces, British, American and Canadian landed in Sicily along a hundred-mile front, under cover of a heavy bombardment from air and sea. 3,000 vessels were employed in transportation, and para-troops and gliders preceded the landing. The forces which disembarked at several points have linked up and advanced 30 miles inland. The entire district of FLORIDIA has been occupied and the troops are fanning out into the central CATANIA plain. SYRACUSE, LICATA, AVOLA, POZZALLO, ISPICA, NOTO, AUGUSTA, RAGUSA, FLORIDIA, COMISO and NARO have fallen. The Allies are advancing towards AGRIGENTO and a fierce battle is raging east of GELA.

Allied fighters are carrying out protective sweeps over Allied shipping, beaches and the advancing troops. Intermittent enemy attempts to interfere with landings and shipping have been frustrated.

During the course of these attacks on enemy shipping in the Tyrrhenian Sea and elsewhere in the Mediterranean two merchant vessels, two destroyers and 28 aircraft were destroyed and two large troop-ships were probably hit.

Large forces of home-based heavy bombers of the R. A. F. raided TURIN and NAPLES on the Italian mainland.

Russia.—There is nothing particular to report except that the battle of OREL-KURSK-BYELGOROD has passed into the second week, without appreciable results. The German attacks on the BYELGOROD—OREL battlefield have slowed down. The Red Army has made breaches in the German defences at OREL.

Air-War.—1,000 tons of bombs were dropped on COLOGNE on July 8 during its 119th raid. GELSENKIRCHEN was raided on July 9 for the 47th time. The Bethune area was bombed on July 11.

The Pacific.—During the week, the Allies made landings at ZANANA near BAROKO and Rice anchorage near MUNDA. These forces have pierced the Barik River defences. A third force was landed near ROKO, in NEW-GEORGIA. A road-block has been established between MUNDA and BAIROKO. The ENOGAI INLET, N-E of BAIROKO has been taken. Japanese, naval forces, which came near BAIROKO Harbour to land reinforcements, made off on being sighted. In a new naval engagement in the Kula Gulf one Japanese cruiser and 3 destroyers were sunk and 2 other destroyers were probably sunk. According to the latest reports MUBO has fallen.

China.—Japanese troops which invaded HUPIEH have been repulsed. Fighting is proceeding in KOTANG. Patrol clashes in S. ANTWAI are reported. The U. S. Air Force in CHINA bombed Japanese installations and shipping in WHAMPOA Harbour. HAIPHONG, HONGAY and CAMPHA in INDO-CHINA were raided 5 times.

Burma.—During the past few days British and Indian troops have carried out a successful raid on MAUNGDAW. The enemy were driven out on July 8 and the town was also held for several hours; but after inflicting casualties the invading forces withdrew. Among the places raided from the air were PADU, WATBIT, YWATAUNG, ZIGON, KINU, OYINGATHA, TAODON, NADAUNGHLA, SHWEBO, BUTHIDAUNG, THAUNGDARA, AKYAB, SAMPRABUN and MAUNGKAN.

ALLIED AIR RAIDS.

5—7—43. (Monday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

Day:—

Railway engines, sheds and goods trucks over Northern FRANCE.

Mine sweepers and an armed trawler off DENHELDER.

Enemy shipping at BOULOGNE (8 Axis planes shot down and 1 Allied plane missing).

NIGHT:—

No information available.

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Landing grounds in South ITALY.

Targets at MARSALA, LICATA, GERBINI and SCIACCA (all in Sicily).

Harbour installations at MESSINA (Sicily).

The air-fields at COMISO and BISCARI (Sicily).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

A Jap sea-plane base at REKATA BAY (Santa Isabel Island).

VILA (Kolombangara).

Jap positions at BAIROKO harbour (N. Georgia).

A barge off AROE Island.

The air-field at SALAMAUA (N. Georgia).

Jap installations on BALLALE Island (Shortlands).

6—7—43 (Tuesday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY and NIGHT:—

No information.

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

The air-field at BORITSO (Sicily).

Air-fields in SARDINIA.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

Railway junctions and air-fields behind the German lines.

FAR EAST.

Jap Naval units in KULA Gulf (Solomons).

BAIROKO harbour (N. Georgia).

Jap air-field at SALAMAUA.

7—7—43 (Wednesday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

No information about day and night air activity.

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy air-fields in SICILY.

Communications in SICILY.

The air-field at MILO (Sicily).

Military objectives at MAZARA, BIZARI, EMPEDOCLE, COMISO and BORITSO (Sicily).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

The air-fields at SALAMAUA (New Guinea) and VILA (Kolombangara).
BAIROKO harbour (New Guinea).
The air-fields at KAVILI and BALLALE.
The air-field at CAPE GLOUCESTER (New Britain).
Jap installations at LAE (New Guinea).
Jap positions at BOBDUI.
The air-field at SELARU (Tanimbar Islands).
Railway yards at PADU, WETLET, YWATAUNG, ZIGONKINU, OYINGATHA, TAODON, NADAUNGHLA and SHWEBO (Burma).
A river boat near MANDALAY (Burma).

8—7—43. (Thursday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

NIGHT :—
The industrial centre of COLOGNE (Germany).
Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.
Enemy air-fields and railway targets in Northern FRANCE.

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

- **Air-fields** in SICILY and SARDINIA.

RUSSIA

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap installations at KELA Point (New Guinea).
A building at FINSCHHAFEN (New Guinea).
VILA (Solomons).
The air-field at GATHELI (Buin-Faisi).
The air-field at KOEPANG (Timor).
Railway junction at THAZI (Burma).
The bridge on the MU River (Burma).
Jap supply dumps at KAMAING and SETON (Burma).
Storage building at BUTHIDAUNG (Burma).
Army hutments at THAUNGDARA (Burma).
Objectives at AKYAB (Burma).

9—7—43 (Friday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY :—
Targets at ST. OMER (France).
Shipping off the CHERBOURG peninsula.
Locomotives in Northern FRANCE

NIGHT :—
The Central RUHR including GELSENKERCHEN (Germany).

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Axis targets in CRETE
The air-fields at COMISO and BISCARI (Sicily).
Railroad tracks at CALTANISETTA.
Shipping at PORTO EMPEDOCLE.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap positions at MUNDA (N. Georgia) and SALAMAUA (N. Guinea).
KISKA (Aleutians.)
Buildings at MAUNGDAW (Burma).
MYITGNE bridge (Burma).

10—7—43 (Saturday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY :—
Air-fields at CAEN, ABBEVILLE (France) and MAUPERTUS (France).
Targets at ST. OMER (3 Allied planes missing ; 1 Axis aircraft shot down).

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Air umbrella over allied shipping off SICILY.
Air-fields in SICILY.
Marshalling yards at CATANIA (Sicily).
Enemy shipping off CRETE.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Light cruiser and destroyers near N. GEORGIA.
Targets at KOLOMBANGARA and GANANGGA Islands (Solomons).
MADAUNG and SALAMAUA (N. Guinea).
Military objectives at AKYAB (Burma).
Rivercraft on the IRRAWADDY (Burma).
PROME–TAUNGUP Road (Burma).

11—7—43 (Sunday).

EUROPE (German occupied)

DAY :—
Several power stations in the BETHUNE area in FRANCE.
Locomotives, tugs, barges and lock gates in BELGIUM and FRANCE.

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Air-fields at REGGIO DI CALABRIA and VIBO VALENTIA (Italy).
Shipping off SICILY.
Air-fields in SICILY.
Air combats over CRETE.
Air support to allied ground troops advancing in SICILY.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Front.

FAR EAST.

Penfoel air-field at KOEPANG (Timor).
The sea plane base at TABERFANE (Aroe Island).
The air-field at BABO (Dutch New Guinea).
The air-fields at RABAUL (New Britain).
Supply barges in HUON Gulf.
Enemy positions in the SALAMAUA area (New Guinea)
The air-field at BOUGAINVILLE (Solomons).
MUNDA (N. Georgia).
VILA (Kolombangara).
KISKA (Aleutians).
AKYAB (Burma).
MAWLAIK (Burma).
Steamers on the IRRAWADDY (Burma).
Targets in BUTHIDAUNG area (Burma).

ENEMY AIR RAIDS.

6—7—43 (Tuesday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA.

BYELGOROD area.

FAR EAST.

RENDOVA (2 Jap planes shot down).
An allied vessel in ARAFURA Sea.

7—7—43 (Wednesday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA.

OREL–KURSK–BYELGOROD Sector.

FAR EAST.

Port DARWIN (Australia) (9 Jap planes shot down ; 7 Allied planes missing).

8—7—43 (Thursday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity

RUSSIA.

BYELGOROD area.

FAR EAST.
RENDOVA Island (Solomons).

9—7—43 (Friday).

BRITAIN.
No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA.
BYELGOROD area.

FAR EAST.
Air combats over the Central SOLOMONS.

10—7—43 (Saturday).

BRITAIN.
No information.

RUSSIA.
KURSK region.

FAR EAST.
Allied positions in the SALAMAUA area near NASSAU BAY (N. Guinea).

11—7—43 (Sunday).

BRITAIN.
No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA.
Russian air-fields behind the OREL-KURSK-BYELGOROD area.

FAR EAST.
No information.

12—7—43 (Monday).

BRITAIN.
A town on the South-east coast of ENGLAND.

RUSSIA.
BYELGOROD area.

FAR EAST.
RENDOVA Island (Solomons).

SIDE LIGHTS.

THE DESCENT ON SICILY. The Battle for EUROPE has begun. The die has been cast and the long-heralded Second Front has been opened at last. The amphibian operations foretold by Mr. Churchill were started when Allied Forces, British, American and Canadian were landed along the length of a hundred miles on the coast of SICILY in the early hours of the dawn on Saturday, July 10. First, air-borne troops and gliders were dropped in the enemy's rear. 'It might have been a picnic party', said an eye-witness, who was present at the take-off, 'the troops chatted, laughed, smoked, chewed gum and cracked jokes.'

1,000 Allied planes bombarded the coastal defences, and 3,000 vessels of different nationalities, but chiefly British and American, made the landing. The Royal Navy silenced the shore batteries, while mine-sweepers cleared the anchorages. A few Italian E-boats in the vicinity made off on sighting the armada. Despite the difficulties of weather and a swell the timing and the technique of landing were perfect.

Bridgeheads have been secured, the beaches are firmly held, and the troops which landed at different points have linked up and advanced some 30 miles already. The great naval base of SYRACUSE, and the important harbour-towns of LICATA, AVOLA, POZALLO, ISPICA, NOTO, COMISO, AUGUSTA and NARO have been taken.

The British 8th Army is attacking CATANIA, the key port of SICILY and infiltrating towards MESSINA.

Axis resistance is slowly increasing. The main body of enemy forces, about 300,000 Italians and 100,000 Germans, has not yet joined issue. The country is mountainous, and all Allied supplies must come by sea and air. It is an operation of great complexity and considerable hazard.

The enemy has greater difficulties. There are only two railways to the 'heel' of ITALY, both of which are open to attack from the air. The Straits of MESSINA are controlled by the Royal Navy.

The blow has been struck, as it looks at the right moment, when the enemy has weakened but has not yet accepted defeat. He is just now speculating how to get out of a tight corner, by building reserves and imposing delays, hoping, meanwhile, to profit

by any division in the Allied camp or error in Allied strategy. But a Cannae is possible only when there is a Varro. If there is a Varro now it is Hitler, the amateur strategist who has brought the Axis to its present plight. The Allies have struck truly and well at Hitler's underside, while his throat is in the deadly grasp of the Russian bear. Sicilian mountains, like Hitler's U-boats, may delay but cannot prevent a victory.

The invasion is only the forerunner of the Battle of EUROPE. The Axis Powers know it. ITALY, anxious to defend her homeland, still keeps some of her divisions in YUGOSLAVIA, ALBANIA and GREECE, fearing an attack on the BALKANS. Mr. Stimson's visit to LONDON is believed to be in connection with new operations. The liberation of GREECE is reported to have received priority of consideration. Speaking at a dinner in honour of Gen. Giraud, President Roosevelt observed, 'I tell you, Gen. Giraud, that we will have the opportunity of going in different directions, and that we have not forgotten that FRANCE is one of the directions, and the ultimate objective is not merely to deliver the people of FRANCE in the southern parts but the people of N. FRANCE—PARIS.'

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THE PUZZLE OF THE EASTERN FRONT. What is happening on the Russian Front? The German offensive started in 3 directions on July 6 and 7 has dwindled. The German High Command has changed from Saul to Paul. Instead of attacking they have changed to the defensive, and declare that it is the Russians, not they, that launched the offensive. What is it—a feint, a swindle, or a defeat?

The large number of tanks, planes and men that the Germans have thrown into the fray, and the months of preparation which preceded the stroke, show that the German aim was initially to strike a telling blow. If the Germans belittle the operations now it may be because of their lack of success, or they may wish to get the best of both worlds; to advertise success, if they succeed, or to play down a Russian Victory, if it comes to that.

The configuration of the battle-line in the present scene of operations is that of a reversed S—that is, S. The upper bulge pointing eastward is OREL held by the Germans, from which they hope to advance on MOSCOW. The lower bulge is KURSK, the salient which the Russians hold and from which they hope to advance on KHARKOV. It is therefore possible that the German attack is only a counter-offensive, to ward off or forestall a Russian thrust held in readiness.

It is also possible that the German drive, even as an offensive, has only a limited objective, that of pinching out the KURSK salient, so dangerous to their safety, at a time when their forces may have to be transferred to the West or South, in view of new fronts opening.

As time passes, indications are increasing that the Germans may adopt a defensive policy, to consolidate their rear and communications in occupied RUSSIA. One such indication is the conciliation of the UKRAINE, and the newly started drive against the guerillas.

But whatever the motive, it is certain that the German attacks, so far, have been expensive, without a return. The German reports of the battle indicate disappointments. It is however safer to assume that the Germans are still strong enough to throw their weight if the Russians happened to weaken at any point, while there is also every possibility that if the German casualties continue at the present heavy rate they may break off the operations on some face-saving pretext.

IS HISTORY GOING TO REPEAT ITSELF? 'The U-boat war has been lost. Do not sail in the floating coffins. Let us end the war. Down with Hitler', this is the text of leaflets distributed recently in KIEL. Mutinies in KIEL, rioting in MUNICH and strikes in the RUHR are reported. Is History going to repeat itself? The naval mutiny at KIEL in the last war was the forerunner of the surrender of Imperial GERMANY. On Nov. 3, 1918 BERLIN ordered the Imperial Navy to join battle with the British Grand Fleet in the North Sea. The German Navy refusing, mutiny broke out, and revolution followed. On Nov. 9, William II abdicated.

We do not wish to suggest, however, that GERMANY is on the brink of a revolt just now. The Prussian junkers and militarists will still hold on, and Nazi administration will no doubt try to put down unrest ruthlessly, but what we mean is, that the unrest now reported from KIEL, MUNICH and the RUHR is symptomatic, and may be the simmerings of a disorder which may end only with the overthrow of the Nazi régime

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THE SHIPPING WAR. Broadcasting on July 7, Admiral Luetzow lamented, 'the battle of the U-boats has become very hard. We have to endure much grief. The enemy has got the upper hand. He is trying to develop his means of defence still further'. Admiral Doenitz, we are told, has refused to risk his U-boats in the Mediterranean, and the Italian navy, for its own reasons, has declined to interfere with Allied shipping in the same sea, with the result that not only the Allied landing in SICILY was uncontested but the whole Mediterranean route is now clear for Allied convoys. The Mediterranean route being 9,000 miles shorter than the Cape route, the control of the Mediterranean has resulted in a saving of 2,000,000 tons of shipping.

Not a merchantship, as Mr. Churchill pointed out in his Guildhall speech, was sunk by U-boat action in June. The reaction on sailings has been immediate. War risk insurance rates have fallen for sailings from AMERICA to INDIA. BRAZIL has cut down her coastal shipping rates by a third. Now, for the first time, bottoms exceed cargo. This means, militarily, that the munitions, that have accumulated at production centres for lack of shipping, can now be increasingly transported. The coffee of BRAZIL, the tea of CEYLON, the sugar of CUBA and the cocoa of S. AMERICA, rotting in warehouses for want of shipping, can now be exported. In the words of the Secretary of the Research Institute of AMERICA, 'the hardened arteries of international trade are being rapidly softened, and the blood which sustains many of the small nations is starting to flow again. The tide has turned, and the waves are literally washing up on countless shores mounting supplies of meat, potatoes, flour, milk, cheese, eggs, and wheat, of tanks, motors, machine-guns and planes.'

The change that has thus come over the sea front is one of the marvels of the war. The U-boat was launched as a weapon to starve BRITAIN. There were grievous shipping losses at first, in the Caribbean, the N. Atlantic and the Arctic waters. In those critical days, we remember, the Prime Minister was the target of incessant sniping by the woe-mongers and the Shinwellites, as though the menace could be mastered by a legislative vote. Now has come the turn of the Prime Minister to point the finger of scorn at his revilers. This, it would seem, was the reason why he made the U-boat the subject of his opening remarks in his Guildhall address.

THE TRIPLE-SEVENTH. The Sino-Japanese war entered on its seventh year on July 7. In China, months and dates are shown by numbers thus: September 4—Nine-Four and January 6—One-Six. Consequently, the seventh year of the war happening to fall on Seven-Seven has been called the Triple-Seventh. It is significant that while CHINA celebrated the anniversary, JAPAN did not. The reason is apparent. For JAPAN it is 6 years of shame and humiliation; for CHINA it is 6 years of heroism. After 6 years, the prospects of victory for the Chinese were never brighter and the hour of liberation of a hoary civilisation from the clutches of barbarism never nearer. Torn by domestic feuds she has held an unscrupulous foe at bay for 6 years. Lacking weapons, Chinese strategy devised the guerilla warfare, delaying action, and a retirement to the mountains in the interior. With the Revolution Modern CHINA was born, and with it a new life came to her. Old factories were shifted and new factories were built. A new social order sprang up. The results of these changes are now apparent. Her 6th year has been a success. The Japanese drive in CHEKIANG-KIANGSI has been foiled, the 'rice-bowl' has been saved, the Japanese have been driven from the Yangtse, and CHINA itself is being converted into a base of operations against JAPAN. For the first time, in the recent operations, Chinese armies fought under their own air-umbrella. CHINA is no longer Laputa, a nation of philosophers, plunged in thought. She looks to action. She has stayed the barbarous hordes of the FAR EAST, and with her 450 millions bids fair to take an important part in saving the world for herself and humanity. Fittingly have the United Nations shown their appreciation in their recent tributes of praise. Mr. Churchill's message to Chiang Kai-Shek is typical of the rest :—

"At the opening of China's seventh year of war, I send you the greetings of the British people. Since the day 18 months ago, when China and Britain became Allies in name as well as in spirit, our two countries have been through many vicissitudes together. Now, with the victories in N. Africa, and the successes on the Yangtse, we have tangible evidence, in the East and the West, of what is to come.

"Neither Great Britain nor China is very likely to underestimate the difficulties and immense battles which still lie before us. The pattern of events is now becoming clear; the initiative is being wrested from the grasp of the enemy; and we can look forward with confident hope to the time when all over the world the aggressors are driven to unconditional surrender.

"Then, when we face the gigantic task of reconstruction, and the civilised arts can once again be practised, I have no doubt that Anglo-Chinese collaboration, tested and tempered in the fire of war, will play its rightful part in the solution of the problems of peace."

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THE BATTLE FOR BASES. The Austro-American drive on MUNDA and SALAMAUA continues slowly and steadily. Japanese efforts to reinforce their garrisons have been thwarted by the naval engagements in the Gulf of Kula. Allied naval and air superiority has been established in the area, and TOKYO is now left with the alternative of risking a major sea action or abandon her S. W. Pacific bases one after another. Last year, it was GUADALCANAR, BUNA and GONA. Now it will be MUNDA, SALAMAUA, LAE and RABAUL, but with a difference.

The campaigns of last year, though tactically offensive were strategically defensive their main aim was the defence of AUSTRALIA rather than an attack on JAPAN.

After GUADALCANAR, but for an attack on RUSSELL Island, the tactical offensive died down for lack of men and supplies. But the interval was not effortless altogether. During the year, bases like NEW CALEDONIA, the NEW HEBRIDES, TULAGI, GUADALCANAR and RUSSELL Islands were developed; troops were rested and reinforced and new air bases were built.

The present offensive has proceeded from these bases; and is gradually changing from an offensive-defensive to a defensive-offensive. Incidentally a force has been built up, large enough to neutralise the enemy's power in the S. W. Pacific, and the bases already captured and to be captured give a choice of routes to JAPAN, the ultimate Allied objective.

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BRIBERY. JAPAN is reported to have made a present to SIAM—'ceded' is the word—of KENTUNG and MONG PAN in the SHAN STATES, and of KEDAH, PERLIS, KELANTAN, and TRENGANNU in Unfederated MALAYA. It is a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul. Asked in the House of Commons, Mr. Anthony Eden reminded his hearers that it was British territory. What is JAPAN's motive behind the present move, to reward a faithful ally, to placate Pibil Songram, who lately quarrelled with them, or, as seems more likely, to bribe a neighbour who might prove a turn-coat during the coming Allied offensive? Whatever may be the answer, nobody will be deceived by the gift. These SHAN STATES were ceded to BRITAIN in 1909 by SIAM as of no use. Now they will be a liability rather than an asset to SIAM. The 'ceded' MALAY STATES are poorer still.

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THE FOOD FRONT. Food conferences at DELHI and debates all over the country, show that the food problem has not only reached an acute stage now but its solution is by no means easy. It is evident that the law of supply and demand, sufficient in normal conditions, has failed. The establishment of free zones, as at CUTTACK, has not been successful. Some form of control is necessary if the nation is not to suffer from insufficiency of food and clothing. The drift is towards rationing, that is towards Governments becoming shop-keepers directly or through agents. Not only prices but quantities also will be filed. But let us not forget that quality is an elusive factor. In the absence of quality the rationing shops will be deserted. Rationing also means a sufficiency of commodity, and the building-up of large stocks to last for months, huge go-downs, and a transport system that will guarantee unfailing replenishment. But after other attempts fail, the last resort is rationing, if people must live and not famish, and if the industrial population, so necessary for the war effort, is not to be driven from urban to rural areas.

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AN UNSUNG SAGA. As we contemplate these difficult times, our meed of praise and sympathy goes to the ungrudging poor, whose silent endurance and fortitude constitute an unsung heroism. Armed with an age-old philosophy, they compare the worse days of famine which their forefathers knew with the brighter days to come after the enemy has been vanquished, and have cheerfully reconciled themselves to the present hardships. Many habits, which were once necessities have

now been relinquished—tea and tobacco for instance. They lie down with the lamb and forego the luxury of a lamp. The goodwoman pounds her own paddy. Weddings and festivities are celebrated with austerity. The problem of clothing is solving itself by the operation of the law of diminishing lengths inversely to the prices.

This is the home front of the poor, heroic, steady and confident of victory.

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WAR EFFORT IN PUDUKKOTTAI. A recent notification provides for the control of *cotton* cloth and yarn. Under the order, Government may fix the maximum prices both ex-factory and retail, and prescribe the markings to be compulsorily made on the products, *after 31st July, 1943.* Cloth and yarn, so marked must be despatched from the place of manufacture within a month of the date of packing in the case of full bales, and within 45 days, in the case of bales not in full; nor may they lie at a place, other than that of manufacture, after 90 days from the date of packing.

All Cloth and yarn so marked shall be finally disposed of by retail sale within 6 months of the date of packing.

No cloth or yarn manufactured *before the 1st August, 1943* may remain in full bales *after the 31st August*, and all such cloth and yarn must be finally disposed of by retail sale not *later than 31st October, 1943.*

Manufacturers and dealers must declare their stocks *held on 31st July, 1943* not *later than August 15, 1943.*

No person other than a dealer or manufacturer will be permitted to possess any stock in excess of normal requirements. A manufacturer's stock will be limited to 3 months production if cloth, and to 2 months' production, if yarn.

THE SINO-JAPANESE WAR.

SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY—7—7—43.

MESSAGES.

1. Mr. ANTHONY EDEN.

There is in our hearts a fixed and grim resolve to teach Japan, once and for all, the lesson 'that co-prosperity' is not achieved by cruelty and oppression, and that he who draws the sword shall perish by it. We have a duty towards our Allies, and in particular, our Chinese Ally, to destroy the present Jap menace in the Far East, and to join in making a contribution to create a better order in which all just men may live in peace. Without such an order and such standards, the peaceful developement of commerce, which always has been the chief interest of British policy in the Far East, is impossible. I have no doubt that our united efforts will bring about the defeat of Japan. But we, in this country, have no illusions about the magnitude of the task.

In Europe the tide of aggression is ebbing. Our great bomber offensive is the prelude to heavier blows.

Every thrust against the Axis in Europe brings us nearer to the day when the full force of the United Nations can be brought to bear against Japan.

2. LORD AILWYN.

In China to-day was an atmosphere of discipline, quiet confidence, a sense of achievement, a steady march, throughout every section of the people, towards progress, and improvement and development of the country's resources. Above all, was the spirit of unity, and indomitable determination to endure until the hated aggressor was finally ousted.

3. FIELD MARSHALL LORD WAVELL.

I am proud that the duties I have been called upon to perform have enabled me to see, at first hand, something of China's great qualities and have permitted me to make friends among her brave people. I rejoice that, as Viceroy-designate, I shall be able to continue that association. The associations between India and China are close. They have shared dangers that make for mutual confidence and understanding, and I am sure that during the coming years of my Viceroyalty I shall see firm bonds forged between the two great Asiatic peoples.

4. Mr. JOHN CURTIN.

With the resolute maintenance of the spirit of resistance in your country and the increasing strength of the United Nations, it is my fervent hope that the night of China's long ordeal will soon pass.

5. Mr. GEORGE BERNARD SHAW.

When I was born China was the despair of the civilised world. Now that I am old, she is its hope. Do not let the hope be disappointed.

6. Mr. LLOYD GEORGE.

The resistance of China to Japanese aggression marked the beginning of this world war of rapacity by great nations. It will, please God, mark its end.

AN ISOLATIONIST'S VIEW OF THE WAR.

(SENATOR TAFT'S ADDRESS AT CINCINNATI).

(*From Mysindia June 12, 1943*).

My own belief is that the United Statas went to war in order that this country and its people might enjoy peace now, and in the days to come; in order that they might be left free to work out the destiny of the American Republic. We did not go to war to establish liberty throughout the world, except as such a world condition might affect our liberty. We did not go to war against Japan when they attacked China. We did not go to war with Germany when they attacked Poland or Czechoslovakia. War came only when our people came to believe that aggression was so dangerous, and so likely to be successful, that our own safety was threatened. That led, first, to aid to Britain, and, finally, it led to war itself. I was opposed to entering the war, because I did not believe that aggression in Europe was so dangerous as to threaten our own safety, even if it

attempted an attack upon us. As I analyse the public opinion which led us gradually to war, it was an opinion that disagreed with this view. Perhaps it was correct. When Japan attacked Hawaii, there was no course except to enter the war against aggression all over the world. Now that war has been undertaken, our people are determined to carry it through to a severe punishment of the aggressor, not only for our present safety but to discourage aggression for all time to come. They are determined further to attempt again an organization of the world which will prevent aggression in the future, and ensure peace for the people of this country by ensuring peace throughout the world.

MILITATY CONSIDERATIONS FIRST.

If I am right in my analysis of our reason for going to war, how should that affect our conduct of the war? I believe, first, that everything must be sacrificed to winning the war. That is the only way aggression can be punished, and it is a prerequisite to any future planning in which we participate. I do not understand those who criticise our policy in Africa or in Spain. It was estimated by the War Department that the capture of Dakar by attack might cost 50,000 casualties and many months of delay. Surely it was well worth our while to make a deal with Darlan, whether we liked his politics or didn't like his politics. We are shipping gasolene to Spain in order to obtain more chrome and other minerals from Spain and prevent their going to Germany. What difference does it make if Franco is a Fascist or a Communist, so long as the net result of the transaction is a direct aid to our military effort? There is a school of Russian sympathizers who object to our short-wave broadcast policy of trying to separate Italy from Germany, because it slants in the direction of a separate peace with Italy. If we could take Italy out of the war on reasonable terms, I believe we should do so to-morrow, Italy and its 'opera bouffe' Mussolini have never been a real menace, and they have suffered a severe penalty now and for their future. Such a peace might well shorten the war against Germany by a year in time and half a million casualties. Surely the military considerations outweigh every political consideration.

I regret the attitude of those who insist on interfering with the British handling of the situation in India. That handling may be right or it may be wrong. But in the first place, the British are in control of India, and we cannot interfere with that control without dissension and disunity. In the second place, they have been in control of India for several hundred years, and they probably know a good deal more about the proper way to handle the situation in the present emergency than any American novelist or American professor. The important thing is to prevent any Japanese entrance into India, and make India a solid base for operations in China and against Burma.

IS IT A CRUSADE?

On the other hand, I have just as little sympathy with those who hesitate to send aid to Russia simply because the Russian Government is a Communist dictatorship. That Communist army has done more to bring about a German defeat than any other army in the world, and for that Russian aid we shall be eternally grateful.

The theory of those who criticise our course in Africa, Spain and India is that we are not merely interested in winning the war, but that we are engaged in a crusade to spread the ideals of the New Deal throughout the world; that we are battling to establish everywhere the principles of the Atlantic Charter; that as our armies proceed they must carry the 'four freedoms' on their banners to every continent and island in the world.

I do not believe that any war can be justified as a crusade. If we prevail in the war, it is undoubtedly true that the principles for which we stand will be stronger, and that we will have an opportunity, by example, to show that they should be adhered to by all free people. But if we admit that the United States can properly go to war to impose our ideas of freedom on the rest of the world, then it seems we must admit that the Soviets have a right to crusade to impose Communism on the rest of the world, because they believe Communism to be the final solution of the world's problems. We would even have to admit that Hitler, however deluded he might be, had a right to crusade to impose his ideas of National Socialism on the rest of the world. A crusade is by its very nature an aggressive act. Our purpose in this war is to punish and abolish aggression. Even if a crusade could be successful, its success would be far out-balanced by the terrific horror, the terrific sacrifices, the terrific destruction of war. If war can be justified as a crusade, the world will face perpetual war. The whole crusade idea is absolutely inconsistent with the purposes for which this war is being fought.

What are the four freedoms? The first two, freedom of speech and freedom of religion, have to do with the internal government of the country in which the individual lives. Freedom from fear and freedom from want have also been construed as rights we are fighting to guarantee to every individual throughout the world, no matter what his government may be. I believe the last two freedoms are reasonable goals as applied to the situation of entire nations in relation to other nations; but if the four freedoms are construed as freedoms for individuals everywhere in the world, we would certainly be engaged in war from now till doomsday before those goals could be obtained. We would not only have to defeat our enemies and establish governments in those countries with American constitutions and New Deal Administrations, but we would have to interfere with the governments of our allies. This is no war of democracies against dictatorships. There is no freedom of religion or freedom of speech in Russia. There are benevolent dictators in Brazil, in Cuba, and in China. There was a dictator in Poland. In Greece, which made one of the most magnificent defences against Mussolini that has been seen in this war, the people fought under a dictator, Metaxas, who was so benighted as to prohibit the reading of Plato's Republic.

FREEDOM FROM WANT.

Surely we are not going to interfere with the internal governments of Russia and China and other nations, in order to insist upon all of their citizens enjoying freedom of speech and freedom of religion. If so, we will have to have a permanent army a good deal larger than 11,000,000 men, and we will have to suspend for all time any renewal of freedom in the United States. It is absolutely impossible for one country to dictate the internal organization of another country.

When we come to freedom from want, it is even more impossible to give any assurance to the peoples of the world. I was recently in Puerto Rico, and saw a condition of abject poverty among thousands of people after 45 years of American rule. Under New Deal auspices, in 1935 and 1936, the Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration spent $ 100,000,000 to make a new world out of Puerto Rico and assure them perpetual freedom from want. In spite of that expenditure, and $ 200,000,000 more poured in since 1932, there is little result apparent to the casual visitor, with the exception of a few public works which don't do the slum dweller the slightest good. There are 2,000,000 people in Puerto Rico on an island which cannot possibly support that number

at any reasonable standard of living. But if we can't solve freedom from want in Puerto Rico, how could we except to solve the problem in China and India, with twice as many people as the resources of the country can support on a decent standard of living? In fact, we haven't solved the problem of freedom from want in the United States, and as yet we cannot even furnish an example to the world as to how poverty and unemployment can be abolised. Let us devote ourselves to that problem in the United States before we distribute milk to every Hottentot.

THE INNER AND OUTER
DEFENCES OF EUROPE.

(*The Times May 12, 1943*).

SEA AND AIR POWER IN INVASION.

From the North Cape to the Aegean the enemy has been busily fortifying the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts. This is not a new process: work on the French coast in the neighbourhood of the Straits of Dover began immediately after the Germans had reached it. It has, however, quickened considerably since the balance began to swing against the Axis, and the prospect of invasion turned what had been formerly only a reasonable precaution into an urgent necessity. The strongest defences are now probably those of Holland, Belgium, and France, especially where they lie within range of British based single-seater fighter aircraft; but those of Sicily may approach those of the Pas de Calais itself. They include minefields—in the water and on beaches—heavily protected coast-defence artillery, heavy and light anti-aircraft artillery, barbed wire, anti-tank obstacles, road-blocks, machine gun casemates, and entrenchments.

REASSURANCE.

The Germans have not been modest about the strength of these defences, and have indeed taken the unusual course of displaying it to Press correspondents. Their object in so doing can only have been to reassure their people and their satellites, who are bewildered by the turn affairs have taken, though a secondary aim may have been to impress the allies. There can be no doubt that the work has been done thoroughly and competently. At most important points the coast defences are likely to provide means for a stiff resistance, and their rupture may prove costly. Yet if the length of the European coastline be taken into consideration, it will appear that the notion of heavy and continuous fortification all along it, in which the Germans want us to believe, is greatly exaggerated. The fortifications may be immensely strong at the most vulnerable and accessible points; at others they will be very much less so; and over long stretches they will not exist, though the greater part of these may lie within the range of a gun or even a battery.

The coast defences constitute the outer *enceinte*. There is an inner fortress, which does not cover France, or Germany's nominally equal partner Italy, but does include her subordinate partner Hungary. Its defences are provided by the "West Wall," the Rhine and the Black Forest, the Alps, the Dinaric Alps, the Balkans, the Carpathians, and several systems of artificial fortifications behind the Russian front. Were Germany to be driven inside this keep she would still not lack the means to maintain the struggle. Yet

just as seizure of some of the outworks afforded the attacker of one of the old fortresses a great material as well as moral advantage, so a strong footing in western France, or Italy, or Greece, or better still in two of them, would intensify the threat to the inner fortress and afford opportunity for surprise assaults upon it.

TACTICAL RESERVES.

These defences, natural and artificial, are very powerful, but their value depends largely upon the strength of the tactical and strategic reserves and of the air forces behind them. In essence, every defensive position represents a hide; and even a thick hide—that is, a deep position—can be pierced within a relatively short time. It is the tactical reserves which have the function of sealing the breaches ; the strategic reserves must be called in to defeat a strong attack and to expel the attacker. The tactical reserves will probably have to stand to the forces in the coast defences in the proportion of two to one. In emergencies small numbers of the coast defence forces, drawn from other sectors, may be used as tactical reserves ; but they are virtually fortress troops, to a large extent armed with fixed weapons, so that, apart from the risk of moving them, their employment can only be on a limited scale. When we begin to measure the length of coastline held, and consider that two out of every three men holding it must be mobile troops disposed at key points in rear, we begin to see that, strong as is the German situation, the problem is by no means easy. With far more troops in proportion to coastline, this country did not find it so when it was preparing to resist invasion.

As regards strategic reserves, this country's problem was also simpler than that of Germany because distances were relatively short. German strategic reserves might have to move from the Rhineland to southern Italy, and they could not all be sent south while there was a threat to France. Moreover, it is by no means certain that all the divisions now held in Germany itself are as mobile and as well equipped as those situated on the active or potentially active fronts. Much, perhaps all, depends upon the strength of the German strategic reserves and upon their dispositions. One of the most vital tasks confronting the allies must be that of limiting the numbers thrown in at the decisive points, by means of deception, feints, and interruption of communications.

The biggest problem of all in invasion is that of shipping. It has been stated that 2,000,000 tons were used in the expedition to French North Africa, that is the equivalent of 500 ships of 4,000 tons apiece. These transports and supply ships were loaded in accordance with the requirements of the forces for landings in face of opposition. It is the least economical method, because in a completely strategic move the loading of stores is much tighter. Equipment is for the most part packed in convenient cases, and a great deal of it now comes from the factory designed to be broken down to save space on shipboard. All combined operations, however, involve tactical loading, however expensive, and every invasion is necessarily a combined operation. On the other hand, no continental invasion need now require a voyage under tactical loading as long as those carried out by the forces which landed in North Africa, because it would start from bases already stocked nearer the scene of action.

There will be losses in shipping, perhaps very heavy losses. But there seems no reason why a large proportion of the ships should not make several trips even as part of the tactical operation. If all has gone well, and a deep bridgehead with a workable port

or ports has been secured, strategic loading would be practicable at least in some cases later on. That the convoy escorts would have to be heavy and complete goes without saying, but again the relatively short distances become a favourable factor.

THE THIRD ELEMENT.

Then there is the third element, the air, meaning protection at sea, protection during landing, protection for subsequent operations, and for the ports and lines of communication continuously. From this point of view the most suitable landing sites are those which can be covered by fighter air-craft—as the enemy is also well aware. Where this is impossible, air-craft carriers will have to be employed while landing grounds are seized. But many of the possible allied objectives, while outside the operational range of fighters, are well within their range of flight for an outward run only. In such cases they could be flown straight from their own airfields as soon as the captured landing grounds were ready for them. In the capture of these, airborne troops may play a part as well as in "jumping" the coast defences.

German fighter strength is exceedingly formidable in the west as well as in the Mediterranean. It may be less widely known that the enemy has by no means denuded himself of bomber strength in the west, even though for the moment he is employing little of it against the United Kingdom. It can be hardly be doubted that he is saving it as a precaution against just such allied combined operations as have been envisaged above, hoping to damage the bridgehead, smash the port facilities and shipping making use of them, and generally cripple the power of the expedition, especially during the crucial period when it is recovering its wind after the exertions of a forced landing. The best counter to these tactics is speed in the organiszation of the new air bases and of anti-air craft defences, and that can be achieved only by the most meticulous preparation.

GOVERNING FACTORS.

An attempt has been made to set out some of the factors which must govern the decision to invade the Continent. It cannot be said that one objective is preferable to another, because that depends upon the resources and dispositions on either side, though it can be said that, if resources were overwhelmingly in allied favour, northern France would provide the best landing-places. Looking at the problem through the enemy's eyes, the strategic reserve is vital. Suppose for the sake of argument that this consists of 45 divisions, the whole situation would be altered if the enemy were enabled to withdraw 15 or 20 more divisions from the Russian front. It might then be that the allies would have to proceed by slow steps, securing first of all, say, a bridgehead in southern Italy. The same applies to air strength. Yet, the problem is by no means insoluble. Defence of such an area as the enemy holds at present is barely within his means now, and in the long run may prove beyond him.

BITER BIT.

Neutral observers latterly have been freely expressing their opinions about the hollowness of German protests against Allied bombing, and they have been contrasting the cool and purposeful manner in which the R. A. F. offensive against Germany has

been developed with the hysterical sadism with which the Germans greeted the *Luftwaffe's* attacks on London in September, 1940. These are some of the German comments of those days which neutral observers now quote :—

" Devouring fires and immense palls of smoke spread the misery of the dying British capital. It is a symbol for the destruction of the whole world. Should England continue to resist, the German *Luftwaffe* will not leave one wall standing."

A few days later a German radio eye-witnesss said: " London can be said to offer a sight of terrifying beauty as our bombers approach their objective. So terrible was the scene that we felt acutely how good it was to be up in a plane. Eight million Londoners are facing destruction or starvation".

On September 20 the *Voelkischer Beobachter* carried the gloating headlines : " Increased fury of German attacks on London : Huge fires : London shops in ruins : Huge casualty lists "; and the next day: " Hail of bombs on all parts of London : Londoners live like rats underground"; and later still : " More than 100,000 homeless in London : Annihilation of most important district in London is only the beginning".

Recalling these and other similar outbursts from the German Radio and Press, neutral observers point out that the present R. A. F. offensive is all the more impressive since it is not accompanied by any such hysteria. Britain, they stress, with her 100,000 casualties from air attacks, has simply made up her mind to finish the job by resolutely setting about the task of destroying Axis war-making industries.

THE CHUNGKING SPIRIT.

Hawthorne Cheng.

Chungking is often referred to as one of the world's most bombed capitals. Chungking residents have become so much inured to bombing that they are no longer startled at alarms. But bombing has not been the only thing to make life hard. There is the Scylla of the depreciation in the purchasing power of the Chinese dollar, and the Charybdis of the increase of commodity prices.

Come what may, Chungking people carry on. Under most hazardous and difficult circumstances, they carry on with increasing vigour and stamina. In London, the slogan after each bombing is " business as usual ". Chungking goes a step further. Its slogan is " life as unusual".

THE SECRET.

What is the secret about this unusual life in Chungking ? A recent British visitor hit the right word. " Everybody here smiles, " he commented, puzzled. Yes ! " Smiles " is the right word underlying life in Chungking—they just take it with a smile. They have learned to co-operate with the irresistible—co-operate but not compromise. With this spirit, co-operative but uncompromising, they face life's hardships, chin up, and eventually turn stumbling blocks into stepping stones.

This particular quality of the Chinese people has come to be known as the Chungking spirit in so far as Chungking is the epitome of Free China. From time immemorial, Chungking has stood for this spirit whereby the Chinese nation has survived through thousands of years up to to-day.

A MORAL FORCE.

In the Western Chow Era, 1027-771 B. C., Chungking was the capital of the State of Pa. Once Pa was besieged by the forces of an agggressive neighbour and General Pa asked the feudal lord of another neighbouring State for help. The latter consented to send troops on the condition that three cities of Pa must be conceded to him as reward. When the siege was lifted, the three cities were demanded. "If I give you the three cities", General Pa told his benefactor, "I shall be unfaithful to my people; if not, I shall break my promise to you. So the only thing I can do is to die." With that General Pa unsheathed his sword and killed himself.

That spirit to die rather than yield still exists. General Pa's tomb on the Seven-Star Mount has existed up to this day as one of the most important landmarks of Chungking. It is more than a landmark. It is a moral force by which Chungking, the nerve centre of China at war, faces the present unprecedented crisis triumphantly.

SPIRIT OF ENDURANCE.

Thus Chungking manages to overcome its difficulties. Through the worst bombing days of 1939, 1940 and 1941, it lived and throve, not so much with pursuit and fighter planes and anti-aircraft guns, as with an ever-hardening spirit of endurance and perseverance, plus a good sense of humour. For every old house, shop, factory, school or Government office building bombed, a new one was always built post-haste.

In some cases, Chinese architecture has reverted from the reinforced concrete to the primitive age of bamboo and mud. It is the work to be done that counts, and during air raids work of office, of factory and of school was often done in the dugouts. In the meantime, people continued to get married and new generations continued to arrive. Weddings was solemnised and children born in shelters during the black-out hours.

COST OF LIVING.

The cost of living in Chungking has increased considerably. The consequent difficulties, however, are all relative rather than absolute in character. The expenses for clothing, eating, lodging and travelling can all be reduced to the minimum.

In China, few people are born with a silver spoon in their mouths, and no rich man can remain rich all the time. The mode of living, for the majority, therefore, is one of economy and frugality. What is needed to meet the wartime conditions is just a little ultrameasure of these virtues, commonly practised in time of peace.

Old, worn-out clothes are patched and re-patched; meat is eaten only on very rare occasions; mud cottages take the place of modern living quarters and the legs serve as the best vehicles for travelling. Thus Chungkingites reduce their buying to the absolute necessaries of daily life. Chinese ingenuity searches for substitute materials for the sake of economy.

LIVING MORE SPARINGLY.

This spirit of going through suffering with triumph, so characteristic of the wartime capital of China, is reflected in the daily life of people in all walks of life. Among the chief sufferers are the public functionaries. They are probably the lowest in the Chinese strata as far as earning power is concerned. Salary, rice-allowance and living subsidies put together are hardly sufficient to meet their minimum requirements. The only way to bridge the gap is to live more and more sparingly.

Students suffer no less. In most of the schools removed to Chungking from the coastal provinces, they are housed like an army. Their dormitories are mat-sheds, and their beds are like the bunks in a ship, one above the other. Their daily food is 99·9 per cent vegetarian. The practice of ancient poor scholars, of studying under the sun or the moon, has been revived in modern China, as even an oil lamp is too expensive for students.

WARTIME TRADE.

In some respects, the war has not been entirely impartial to all concerned Merchants, for instance, fall under the category of "favoured classes". Because of increases in commodity prices, profits are counted by the thousands. Those who indulge in the get-rich-quick practices of hoarding and profiteering make millions. But to make millions in this way may mean to lose one's life, for in addition to law there is the whip-lash of public opinion against such practices.

In general, merchants have a contribution to make to the nation. In Chungking, they do business at great risk. A whole shop with its full array of valuable goods may be wiped out and a rich business man or banker may go bankrupt overnight. But the irrepressible spirit of the merchants is bomb-proof. So business in the wartime capital goes on and money is kept flowing.

"MOUNTAIN CITY".

Built on a ridge of hills, Chungking is generally known as a "mountain city". High and steep stairways built of stone steps mark many of its alleys and thoroughfares. The services of sedan-chair carriers, therefore, prove indispensable. Except for them, travelling on many Chungking streets is a drudgery, too much for the weak and old. While most young men prefer to walk, there are still many who have to rely on sedan-chairs. Many high officials of the Government have private sedan-chairs in which they travel between home and office.

The war, and the great migration westward of Government organisations, factories and educational institutions have done much for the Szechwan labourers, if the views of a Chungking sedan-chair carrier can be taken as representative. "Business is better now than before the war," says Li Yung-an. Li and his partner earn about $ 100 a day.

Out of his half, he pays $ 6 rental to the sedan-chair hong, and spends about $ 10 for a meal at one of the cheap food booths. A pair of straw sandals lasting two or three months costs him only $ 4. The tariff for sedan-chair riding is fixed at $ 2 per Chinese *li* (one-third of a mile).

Thus people of different occupations in Chungking carry on, each group contributing in its own way to the abundance of life in Chungking. Throughout the vast land, swept by a cataclysmic war, many feel there is no better place to live in than Chungking.

WAVELL'S NAVY.

TWO words, " The Navy," have been heard a great deal during recent months of campaigning in Arakan. The words cover not only the Royal Navy but also the Royal Indian Navy, the Burma Navy and even the little fleet of cargo and passenger-carrying river steamers skippered by Army Officers and sometimes known as " Wavell's Navy ".

All these, in their different rôles, have rendered gallant service along the coast to Akyab and beyond, or in broad tidal rivers like the Naf and the Mayu. Their achievements have provided some of the brightest episodes in the past season's operations against the Japanese, writes an Indian Army Observer.

From a spectacular point of view, pride of place goes to the swift hard-hitting launches of coastal forces of the Royal Indian and Burma Navies, which have scored success after success against the enemy, scourging his coastal shipping and occasionally raiding key points on land.

Low, rakish-looking craft, powerfully motored and packed with weapons, some are constructed in Indian yards. They have British, Indian and Burmese officers and crews, who have proved their courage and the soundness of their training over and over again.

SUCCESSFUL ENCOUNTERS.

High-lights of their activities have been a smashing raid on Japanese-occupied Myebon, Hunter's Bay, 50 miles south east of Akyab ; the definite sinking of one, and probably two ships laden with Japanese reinforcements and ammunition in a night action off Ramree Island in the same area ; a moonlight battle off the Mayu Peninsula in which an enemy launch was rammed and sunk and another driven ashore ; and two or three sharp bombardments of Japanese land positions at Donbaik.

In between times, they have harried the enemy in many daring ways, killed several scores of Japanese, and brought back valuable prisoners who were saved from the water when their ships were blown from under them.

TRANSPORT WORK.

Less spectacular, but doing a vital job with great efficiency, the little ships of " Wavell's Navy " have carried up and down the Naf river and elsewhere thousands of tons of supplies and large numbers of men. That their Indian crews possess the fighting spirit if the need and the opportunity occur, was shown only a few days ago, when two 120 feet vessels were attacked by ten Japanese aircraft, and hit back with their machine-guns so vigorously that one bomber was sent crashing into the river and another made off damaged.

In all this fine record of achievement, which has done much to help our British and Indian land forces, few casualties and only minor damage to craft are entered on the debit side. The balance has been overwhelmingly in our favour.

FRENCH GUERILLA ARMY : WOMEN'S BRANCH.

WOMEN DROPPED BY PARACHUTE.

(*From the Daily Herald.*)

Women are being dropped by parachute in France for underground work and guerilla warfare, declard Douglas Smith, American-born captain of the French Foreign Legion, in an interview in New York. Smith, who is just back from Algiers, said that almost every day men and women were being smuggled into France, some by parachute, others by transport planes and still others by submarine. "We train them to get them into France under cover of darkness and maintain radio communication with them", Smith said. "They ambush small parties of troops, destroy bridges, blow up roads and kill sentries. Among other tasks, they wreck trains and railway junctions, burn ammunition and petrol stores."

Captain Smith is in the U. S. A. on a mission for General Catroux, Governor of Algiers. He says that only recently have the Allies appreciated the real scope of operations by the underground guerilla troops of France.

HOSPITAL SHIPS.

(*From The Daily Mail*).

Eighteen thousand sick and wounded Allied officers and men were flown from African battlefields in giant transport planes for treatment. This revelation was made by Brigadier General David Grant, Air Surgeon in the U. S. Army Air Forces. General Grant was speaking in New York. He said :—

"Use of aerial evacuation of wounded will he greatly increased in future. Air evacuation is a great saver of lives. Because this is a mobile war, we soon discovered that the evacuation hospital of the World War days would not do in this present war. A large evacuation hospital is practically immobile, and therefore vulnerable to capture by a quick breakthrough of armoured enemy forces.

"We converted giant cargo planes into flying ambulances, equipped and staffed to carry the sick and wounded to hospitals back home. Our pilots flew their cargoes into the combat zones—and then loaded human cargo into the same planes on the return trip.

Aboard each of the plane ambulances there is either a flight surgeon or an army nurse, and also one non-commissioned officer of the medical department. They provide medical attention, administering blood plasma and oxygen. Some days we moved as many as 600 patients—three times as many as can be carried by a hospital train on any one trip.

"Apart from medical efficiency brought about by the removal of wounded from fighting zones to relative peace and quiet, an important psychological element is involved. If a wounded man knows that he is soon to be in a safe and friendly area, clean and comfortable, with all the skill and equipment of modern medicine at his side, his will to recovery is much greater. For troops to know that means are at hand for their care if they are injured increases their morale.

"Planes, apart from evacuation, also flew a complete 250-bed hospital from one African battlefield to another when shifting of hospital facilities was necessary".

General Grant recalled that out of 91,000 U. S. casualties those dead were only 15,000. He went on: "There are four chief factors for this low death rate—blood plasma, quick evacuation to medical treatment, sulpha drugs, and surgery".

ROYAL INDIAN NAVY.

One of India's contributions to the United Nations' War effort consists in placing the Royal Indian Navy's dockyard facilities at the disposal of warships of other Navies. These facilities have been fully utilized since hostilities began, but the fall of Singapore greatly increased their importance.

SHIP-BUILDING IN INDIA.

Men-of-war, like those that fought in the European conflicts of the period, were built and repaired in India as long ago as the seventeenth century. In one port the site of the dockyard was chosen by the first of a distinguished line of Parsee shipbuilders 200 years ago, and in it were constructed warships both for India and the Royal Navy.

During the present war, the Royal Indian Navy's dockyard facilities have been used not only for its own vessels but also for repairing and refitting warships of the Royal Navy and the fleets of Allied nations. On a working day some time ago the flags of several of these countries were seen, as well as the White Ensign, while beneath them rose the clang of tools and machinery, as Indian workmen applied their technical knowledge to the ships' needs. There has been so much to do in recent months, that some orders have been diverted to private firms, which, in carrying them out, act under the supervision of R. I. N. dockyard staff.

The more complicated types of machinery needed to refit a modern warship come to India from Europe, but a great quantity of Indian material and Indian-made equipment is used every month, including hundreds of tons of Indian steel, and large stocks of timber and stores. Orders are also carried out for naval shore establishments, and launches and other craft are built.

WELL-KNIT ORGANIZATION.

A dockyard is a well-knit organization, and in India each branch has brought its skill and technical knowledge to bear on the problems raised by the increase of work. The Constructive Department deals with repairs to hulls; the Engineering Department attends to engine and boiler rooms, as well as to some extent to armament.

In warships of to-day electricity plays a most important rôle; this side of dockyard activities is the concern of the Electrical Department. The stores organization provides a multitudinous variety of items, but those for ships' armament are the responsibility of the Ordnance Group.

The army of workmen is divided into a large number of skilled trades. For these employees' benefit there is a welfare organization supplying free medical treatment and other facilities.

OWN HOSPITAL.

The Royal Indian Navy is to have its own hospital at Bombay. It will be staffed by naval doctors and nurses assisted by 'sick-bay attendants,' the Navy's term for hospital orderlies.

The hospital will have ear, nose, throat, ophthalmic and X-ray departments and a laboratory service, and there will be a full complement of specialists. The new hospital will be located in the vacant buildings of the Ramesh Premchand Sanatorium.

SPORTS IN THE NAVY.

In the Royal Indian Navy facilities for sport and recreation are provided for all. Men are encouraged to play team games, such as football, hockey, cricket and net-ball. Indoor games include boxing, wrestling, badminton and gymnastics. Swimming is also encouraged.

Each naval establishment has its sports officer, always on the look out for likely talent. Take hockey for instance. Although a recruit may not know how to handle a hockey stick, he is shown how to play, receives plenty of practice, and is given every opportunity of developing into a thrusting forward, or a pillar of strength in any other position for which he may be suited.

You will see officers and ratings in the same team, for in the Navy the officer not only plans for the men's recreation but also takes part in it.

In one large city, in particular, the Royal Indian Navy has a well-equipped and most picturesquely situated sports ground. Framed in a back-ground of palm trees and grassland, and only a short distance from the sea, is a newly built pavilion with all the amenities that a sportsman could desire.

Naval establishments run a Hockey League of their own. Each has a number of teams raised from its own personnel, and these frequently take the field against one another.

Football is also a great attraction in men's leisure hours. H. M. I. Signal School recently won the Navy's Inter-Establishment competition.

Ships and training establishments run literary and dramatic societies, and ratings are encouraged to take part in the performances. In one well-known R. I. N. warship, the honorary secretary of the literary society was until recently a Punjabi Petty Officer from Gujerat district. To entertain the men while at sea, the society arranged lectures concerts and dramatic performances.

In one Indian city. ratings in training establishments are invited to a cinema show once a week at one of the local cinemas, where they are provided with light refreshments. A local Hospitality Committee has also arranged concert parties and cinema shows in one of the training establishments, in addition to the programmes organized by the Recreation Officer.

GROW MORE FOOD.

To-day, in the midst of war, no garden-owner must be seen to be growing flowers when he could be growing vegetables. It is his duty to supply his own kitchen from his own soil, so that others who are dependent on the bazaar may have enough.

If you have a garden, take steps at once to organise it as a defence against shortage. Vegetables and quick-growing fruits cost little to raise, and in months to come you may be very glad of them. Interest your children in the garden and its possibilities as a source of nutritious food. Children should be taught to love and value the land, even if it is only a patch of soil in the middle of a city.

An acre of Potato gives twice as much real food as an acre of Wheat.

3 oz. of Bean seed will yield 100 to 150 lb. of Beans.

Vegetables protect you against "deficiency" diseases, enrich the blood and increase vitality.

According to season and the type of soil, the following Vegetables and fruits can be grown successfully in town gardens :

VEGETABLES.

Potatoes.	Peas.	Artichokes.	Marrows.
Sweet Potatoes.	Beans.	Cauliflowers.	Lettuce.
Radishes.	Cabbages.	Carrots.	Cucumbers.
Beetroot.	Brussel Sprouts.	Turnips.	
Onions.	Lady's Fingers.	Spinach.	
Celery.	Arvi (or Ghoyan).	Brinjals.	

FRUITS.

Bananas.	Papayas.	Guavas.	Melons.	Pineapples.

PUDUKKOTTAI STATE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU.

PROGRAMME.

LECTURE CLV. (*Batch 2*).

17- 7-43	Municipal Office	... 6.00 p.m.
18- 7-43	Kudumiyamalai	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Parambur	... 7.30 ,,
19- 7-43	Vengalur	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Konapattu	... 7.30 ,,
20- 7-43	Nachchandupatti	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Virachchilai	... 7.30 ,,
21- 7-43	C. S. M. High School	... 10.00 a.m.
,,	Rani's High School	... 10.45 ,,
21- 7-43	College A English	... 10.45 a.m.
,,	College B Tamil	... 10.45 ,,
,,	Kulipirai	... 7.00 p.m.
,,	Sevalur	... 7.30 ,,
22- 7-43	Kalamavur	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Nallur	... 7.30 ,,
23- 7-43	Panayappatti	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Rangiyam	... 7.30 ,,

LECTURE CLVI (*Batch 1*).

24- 7-43	Municipal Office	... 6.00 p.m.
25- 7-43	Surakkadu	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Kottaikkadu	... 7.30 ,,
26- 7-43	Tiruvarangulam	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Vamban	... 7.30 ,,
27- 7-43	Malaiyur	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Karambakkudi	... 7.30 ,,
28- 7-43	C. S. M. High School	... 10.00 a.m.
,,	Rani's High School	... 10.45 ,,
28- 7-43	College A English	... 10.45 a.m.
,,	College B Tamil	... 10.45 ,,
,,	Ramachandrapuram	... 7.00 p.m.
,,	Rayavaram	... 7.30 ,,
29- 7-43	Viralimalai	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Poruvai	... 7.30 ,,
30- 7-43	Valaramanikkam.	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Embal	... 7.30 ,,

RECRUITING—ADVERTISEMENT—4 p. m.

17— 7—43	Tirumayyam.
18— 7—43	Tittanviduthi.
19— 7—43	Mullangurichchi.
20— 7—43	Vadakadu.
21— 7—43	Kilanilai-Puduppatti
22— 7—43	Kilanilai.
23— 7—43	Pudukkottai.
24— 5—43	Vettamviduthi.
25— 6—43	Marudankonviduthi.
26— 5—43	Konnaiyur.
27— 6—43	Perambur.
28— 6—43	Karambakkudi.
29— 7—43	Kulipirai.
30— 7—43	Pudukkottai.

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